

REMARKS

In response to the Office action dated December 26, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 14 are pending in the present Application and Claims 16-20 are withdrawn. Pending Claims 8 and 14 have been amended leaving Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 14 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment and following remarks. Withdrawn Claims 16 and 20 are amended and withdrawn Claims 17-19 are hereinabove cancelled without prejudice.

Support for the amendment to the claims is at least found in the specification, the figures, and the claims as originally filed. More particularly, support for amended Claims 8 and 14 is at least found in the specification at page 20, lines 21-23 and Figure 11.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4, 10 and 13 are allowed.

Claim 18 is objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, for the reasons provided in the allowance of Claims 1 and 10. Applicants gratefully thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter and hereinabove amend Claim 16 to include the limitations of Claim 18 and intervening Claim 17. Claims 17 and 18 are hereinabove cancelled without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8, 14, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasagawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,283 (hereinafter "Sasagawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claim 17 is hereinabove cancelled without prejudice and rejections are rendered moot for this claim.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Amended Claims 8 and 14 recite, *inter alia*,

“a second light reflecting plane that is inclined with respect to the light transmitting surface *and connected with a first edge of the first light reflecting plane and a second edge of an adjacent first light reflecting plane* so that the light reflecting protrusions each form a prism shape.”

In the Office action at Page 4, reflective surface 21 and inclined surface 22 of Sasagawa are considered as disclosing the “first light reflecting plane” and the “second light reflecting plane,” respectively, of the claimed invention.

Sasagawa discloses a flat portion 23 between the projections 21,22. (Col. 16, lines 16-23 and Figure 10.) That is, inclined surface 22 may be considered as connecting with a first edge of the reflective surface 21, such as at the peak of the projection. However, the inclined surface 22 connects with the flat portion 23, not a second edge of an adjacent reflective surface 21, contrary to the claimed invention. Therefore, Sasagawa does not teach a second light reflecting plane inclined with respect to the light transmitting surface and connected with a first edge of the first light reflecting plane and a second edge of an adjacent first light reflecting plane so that the light reflecting protrusions each form a prism shape of amended Claims 8 and 14.

Thus, Sasagawa fails to disclose all of the limitations of amended Claims 8 and 14. Accordingly, amended Claims 8 and 14 are not anticipated by Sasagawa. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8 and 14 are not further rejected or objected and are therefore allowable.

As discussed above, Claim 16 is hereinabove amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 18 and intervening Claim 17. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is allowable. Claim 20 (as amended) now includes the limitations of amended Claim 16, is not further rejected or objected and is correspondingly allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 8, 14, 16 and 20 are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasagawa in view of Ishihara et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0019379 (hereinafter "Ishihara"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claim 19 is hereinabove cancelled without prejudice and rejections are rendered moot for this claim.

Conclusion

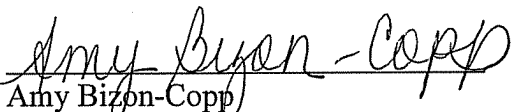
All of the objections and rejections are herein overcome. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. No new matter is added by way of the present Amendments and Remarks, as support is found throughout the original filed specification, claims and drawings. Prompt issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed phone number regarding this response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

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Date: March 26, 2007